

Notice of Opportunity to Comment

Responsible Official Craig Trulock, Forest Supervisor for the Malheur National Forest announces the availability of the Long Creek Pass Communication Site Draft Environmental Assessment for public review and comment. The Long Creek Pass Communication Site project proposes to authorize an AT&T FirstNet communication site including a 195' tower and associated building within an area less than one acre. The site is located west of US Highway 395 at Long Creek Pass where an existing radio site is located. This authorization would include a project specific Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) amendment of the visual quality objective of retention and plan-level Forest Plan amendment to designate the area as an Administrative Sites.

The Malheur National Forest has identified the following substantive rule requirements as directly related to the proposed amendments for the Long Creek Pass Communication Site:

36 CFR 219.10(a)(1) Aesthetic values, scenery, and viewsheds and 36 CFR 219.10(a)(3) Appropriate placement and sustainable management of infrastructure.

The Draft Environmental Assessment can be accessed on the Forest Service Website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60073>.

This solicitation serves three purposes:

1. It serves as the comment period required under 36 CFR 218 and 36 CFR 219 objection regulations.
2. It serves as the purpose of scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act regulations.
3. It serves as an opportunity for the public to share with forest staff their thoughts on the proposal and associated forest plan amendments. This includes what you like, dislike and any adjustments you may want to see considered in the project design, and why.

Comments concerning this action and the associated Forest Plan amendments must be submitted within 30 calendar days following publication date of the legal notice in the Blue Mountain Eagle.

Written comments concerning the proposed project and associated amendments may be submitted using the following methods:

Postal mail: Craig Trulock, Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, PO Box 909, 431 Patterson Bridge Rd, John Day, OR 97845. E-mail: comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur@usda.gov (please put "Long Creek Pass" in the subject line of your email). Electronic comments must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than those listed above, in other formats, or containing viruses will be rejected. For electronically submitted comments, the sender should normally receive an automated acknowledgment from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Fax: 541-575-3001. For those submitting hand delivered comments please call 541-575-3000 to make arrangements.

Written comments shall include your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number; organization represented (if any), title of document about which the comment is being submitted, and specific facts

or comments along with supporting reasons that you believe the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision; and your signature.

Your comments concerning possible amendment of the Forest Plan should focus on the potential environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen any adverse impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be.

Decisions by the Forest Service to approve “project-specific” plan amendments (for this project the proposed amendment for site-specific changes in standards and guidelines for visuals) are subject to the Administrative Review Process of 36 CFR 218 Subpart A and B, in accordance with 36 CFR 219.59 (b). The term “project specific” refers to an amendment that would only apply to the proposed project and would not apply to any future management actions.

Decisions by the Forest Service to approve “plan level” amendments to Land Management Plans (for this project the proposed amendment to designate the area as an administrative site) are subject to the Pre-Decisional Administrative Review Process Regulations at 36 CFR 219 Subpart B. The term “plan level” refers to plan amendments that would apply to future management actions.

Refer to the applicable administrative review regulations for eligibility requirements. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered but will not allow for standing to object to the amendments.

Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the project should contact Janet Plocharsky by phone at 541-575-3390 or email: janet.plocharsky@usda.gov.